

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 994
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Russell Gwatney of
Memphis upon being named a 2006 *Time*
Magazine Quality Dealer Award finalist.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Russell Gwatney, President of Gwatney Chevrolet-Isuzu, is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity in the field of automobile sales since 1963, when he began sweeping floors and counting parts for inventory in his father's dealership; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney's outstanding abilities were recently recognized when he was named one of the top five automobile dealers in the nation as a finalist for the 2006 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award; and

WHEREAS, the annual award, sponsored by *TIME*, in association with The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company and in cooperation with the National Automobile Dealers Association, recognizes outstanding new car dealers for exceptional dealership performance and distinguished community service; and

WHEREAS, an Arkansas native, Russell Gwatney grew up in the car business; his father became a Chevrolet dealer in Jacksonville, Arkansas, when Russell was six years old; he started selling cars in 1973, after an illness caused him to leave the University of Arkansas during his junior year, and after graduating in 1976, Mr. Gwatney returned to the dealership to work in sales management; he became the General Manager of the dealership in 1979, and co-dealer in 1984; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his business successes, Russell Gwatney still finds time to lend his talents to a wide range of worthy organizations and causes; he has also served as Chairman of the Memphis branch of the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank and serves on the Executive Committee of the Memphis Regional Chamber of Commerce, in which role he was instrumental in the passage of significant day care legislation by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney has rendered astute service to his industry as Chairman of the Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission and currently serves as a Trustee of the Tennessee Automotive Association Self Insurers' Trust; and

WHEREAS, Russell Gwatney, who was nominated for the 2006 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award by the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Automotive Association, has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his industry peers, fellow citizens, and customers alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell Gwatney is the proud father of three children, John, David, and Megan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gwatney exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean, and his dedication to his profession and to the good people of Tennessee is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Mr. Russell Gwatney of Memphis on his outstanding career, his ongoing commitment to his community, and on being named a finalist for the 2006 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.